



**WaiBOP
Football**

YOUTH/SENIOR DISPENSATION CHECKLIST – PLAYING UP IN AGE

FEDERATION YOUTH LEAGUES

In general, all players should play in their appropriate age group (born 2010 = U13). However, it is recognised that player development is not linear, and it is therefore important that players are challenged appropriately irrespective of their age. Dispensation for players to play up or down an age group as below.

Fully accredited 'NZF TDP' clubs will not be required to seek dispensations and will be able to place players in the age group that best suits their individual development. Clubs that do not have 'NZF TDP' approval will be required to apply for dispensation for players wanting to play outside their respective age group.

- Each Match day squad (max 16 players) must have at least 12 players that are born in the appropriate age group. This provides the opportunity for a maximum of 4 players to be 'dispensated' (moved up 1 age group or moved down 1 age group).
- The dispensated players can change at any time but the ratio must remain the same for each match. If you have a smaller squad, then that will reduce the number of dispensated players.
- No other dispensation requests will be considered.
- Clubs must provide the names of the players (maximum 4 players per grade) they wish to be dispensated. This can change at any time by notifying WaiBOP Football 48 hours prior to match day.
- The purpose of this dispensation rule is to provide clubs with the opportunity to better support individual players with their development.

The following is a checklist to help you determine whether you should submit a dispensation request for a player to play up in age in the Federation Youth Leagues or in Senior Football:

When should I apply for dispensation to play up in age? (every point must be met)	Achieved
The club is seeking to play a player younger than the defined age group	
The player is exceptionally talented* and is being held back by continuing in their defined age group	
The club can provide evidence as to how the workload of the player will be managed throughout the season	

*NB: * Exceptionally Talented means that the players excel in all areas of the four corner model identified in the NZF Junior and Youth Framework documents and would be likely to continue to excel in the age group above.*

When should I NOT apply for a dispensation for a player to play up in age grade?

- The player does not meet the guidelines set out in the NZF Junior and Youth Framework documents.
- The club is seeking dispensation for a younger player(s) because a team doesn't have enough players to fulfil a fixture(s).
- A player would like to play with another family member or friends in an older age group.

CRITERIA TO PLAY SENIOR FOOTBALL

BOYS	
16 Years	No dispensation required
15 Years	Dispensation and parental consent required
14 Years	No dispensation allowed
GIRLS	
15 Years	No dispensation required
14 Years	Dispensation and parental consent required
13 Years	No dispensation allowed

For clarity, a Boy of 16 Years has already had their 16th birthday, and a Girl of 15 Years has already had her 15th birthday.

Senior Dispensation Request form:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/WaipopFootball/2023seniordispensationform>

Youth Dispensation Request form:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/WaipopFootball/2023federationyouthleaguedispensationform>

For further information, please email Ken Cresswell, Football Development Manager - ken.c@waibop.co.nz